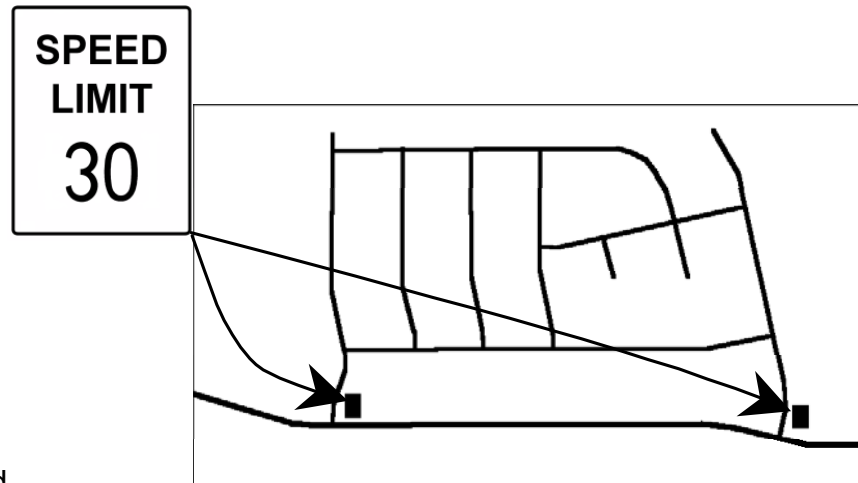


Speed Limit Signs



30 MPH Residential Speed Zone

States base their speed regulations on the Basic Speed Law: "No person shall drive a vehicle...at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent...and in no event at a speed which endangers the safety of persons or property."



Under Texas law, a motorist “may not drive at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the circumstances then existing.” In addition, specified speed limits, called *prima facie* limits, are considered by law to be reasonable and prudent under normal conditions. Certain *prima facie* limits are established by State law

including the **30 mph speed limit** on streets and the 15 mph speed limit on alleys in urban areas. **These speed limits do not need to be posted to be enforced.**

Streets that have speed limits higher than this base speed limit are signed as 35 mph zones, 40 mph zones, 45 mph zones, etc. Streets **that do not have these signs** are 30 mph zones.

30 mph speed limit signs are installed generally under any one of the following criteria:

- Streets that have documented speeding problems;
- Streets that **appear** to motorists to have a faster speed limit, e.g., very wide streets; or
- Streets that are the primary entrance into a residential subdivision where the interior streets are all 30 mph zones.

Drivers are required by the Texas Department of Public Safety to possess a valid Texas Drivers License. Obtaining a license requires knowing that the *prima facie* speed limit on city streets is 30 mph, unless otherwise posted.

35 MPH and Faster Speed Zones

On any given street, some vehicles operate at faster speeds than others. The street's operating speed is characterized by the statistically derived **85th percentile speed**. This is the speed at, or below, which 85 percent of the vehicles travel. Non-residential streets can have speed limits that are faster than 30 mph. Factors that are considered in the establishment of the speed limit are the 85th percentile speed, adjacent land use, roadway character, 12-month accident history and engineering judgment.

How to Request Speed Limit Signs

If you are interested in having the City add speed limit signs to a particular street that meets the criteria outlined in this brochure, or if you wish to get the City's assistance in determining if a particular street qualifies for speed limit signs, simply contact this office at the address or phone numbers listed at the end of this brochure.

Getting Motorists to Drive Slowly

Installing speed limit signs often does not cause motorists to drive at reasonable speeds. In fact, motorists tend to drive at speeds they feel comfortable with, regardless of the speed limit. Consequently, to cause vehicles to operate at lower speeds it may be necessary to increase enforcement of the speed limit law or retrofit the installation of a traffic calming feature, e.g., speed humps.

What You Can Do

Most of the motorists who speed on our City streets are fellow residents. If additional measures are needed to provide sufficient traffic safety, please contact our office. If we all do our part to follow the speed limits, we will improve traffic safety for San Antonians and our visitors.